However, details of installed capacity are not available.

It is estimated that the present demand for Nitrocellulose required by explosives, ink lacquers, paints industries etc., is around 1000 tonnes per annum.

Denotification of Haldia as a Backward area

@2608. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered for denotification of Haldia as a backward area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for taking the decision with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Industrial undertakings established in Blocks|Taluks etc. where investments had exceeded Rs. 30 crores as on 31-3-1983 are not eligible for Central subsidy and concessional finance. However, concessional finance facilities are available to SSI units. Total number of such blocks is 71, Sutahata-I Block in Midnapur district (perhaps the reference of Hon'ble Member is to this Block) and other 7 blocks in West Bengal fall in this category.

Production and Consumption of Liquor in Country

@@2509. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and consumption of liquor in the country;

(b) whether the licensed capacity of liquor is sufficient to meet the domestic demand; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for allowing import of foreign liquor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) As per the assessment made at the meeting of Central Molasses Board held on 2.1.1987, the production of alcohol during the current alcohol year 1986-87 (December 1986-November, 1987) was estimated at 6900 lakh litres which was almost equal to the demand for both industrial and potable use. According to the recent indications, however, the production is likely to be somewhat more than the original assessment.

(b) The distillation capacity in the country is more than adequate for meeting the indigenous demand of alcohol.

(c) During last two years, on account of lower production of sugarcane, the availability of molasses was not adequate to meet the indigenous requirement of alcohol. Duty free import of alcohol (denatured) was, therefore, allowed to meet the requirements of the alcohol-based chemical industries only. However, during the current alcohol year no imports have been allowed.

Advantages of using CNG

2610. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 192 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what will be the advantages in using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in place of petrol or diesel oil;

@Previously Unstarred Question 2224 transferred from the 13th August, 1987.

@@Previously unstarred Question 2153 transferred from the 13th August, 1987.